



## Gallatin County Off-Site Winter Wheat Nurseries

Preliminary data from the Gallatin County off-site winter wheat nurseries in Willow Creek and Dry Creek is now available. These results do not include test weight or protein, but will soon. Excel spreadsheets displaying the winter wheat nursery yields and plant heights can be obtained by visiting the Gallatin County Extension website at [www.gallatinextension.com](http://www.gallatinextension.com). If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of the results, please call 582-3280 to have a copy mailed to you.

Jim Berg and Phil Bruckner of MSU are running the tests while the Dry Creek cooperator is Bob Miller and the Willow Creek cooperators are the Reich Brothers.

## Vesicular Stomatitis

*With the recent Montana outbreak of vesicular stomatitis,  
I thought the following information may be useful.*

Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease that primarily affects cattle, horses and swine. The virus that causes vesicular stomatitis has a wide host range. This disease also occasionally affects sheep and goats. Many species of wild animals have been found to be susceptible hosts. Humans can also become infected with vesicular stomatitis when handling affected animals.

In affected livestock, vesicular stomatitis causes blisterlike lesions to form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, hooves and teats. These blisters swell and break, leaving raw tissue that is so painful that infected animals generally refuse to eat or drink and show signs of lameness. Severe weight loss usually follows, and in dairy cows, a severe drop in milk production commonly occurs. Affected dairy cattle can appear to be normal and will continue to eat about half of their feed intake.

While vesicular stomatitis can cause economic losses to livestock producers, it is a particularly significant disease because its outward signs are similar to those of foot-and-mouth disease. The only way to tell these diseases apart is through laboratory tests.

There is no specific treatment or cure for vesicular stomatitis. Owners can protect their animals from this disease by avoiding congregation of animals in the vicinity where vesicular stomatitis has occurred. Mild antiseptic mouthwashes may bring comfort and more rapid recovery to an affected animal. Good sanitation and quarantine practices on affected farms usually contain the infection until it dies out of its own accord.

When a definite diagnosis is made on a farm, the following procedures are recommended:

- Separate animals with lesions from healthy animals, preferably by stabling. Animals on pastures apparently are affected more frequently with this disease.
- As a precautionary measure, do not move animals from premises affected by vesicular stomatitis—unless they are going directly to slaughter—for at least 30 days after the last lesion found has healed.
- Implement on-farm insect control programs that include the elimination or reduction of insect breeding areas and the use of insecticide sprays or insecticide-treated ear tags on animals.
- Use protective measures when handling affected animals to avoid human exposure to this disease.

Veterinarians of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) work to keep vesicular stomatitis from becoming established in the United States because of its similarity to other diseases of concern, its negative impact on livestock production, and its public health implications. Vesicular stomatitis is recognized internationally as a reportable disease. Exports of U.S. livestock and animal products would be restricted if vesicular stomatitis were allowed to spread in this country.

For more information, contact your veterinarian or visit [www.aphis.usda.com](http://www.aphis.usda.com) or <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/liv/animalhealth/diseases/vesicular/VSinMontana.asp> for up-to-date Montana outbreak information.

## September 29th-30th, Montana Simmental Association Fall Tour

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The Montana Simmental Association has announced their fall ranch tour will be held September 29-30, 2005 in North Central Montana.

For more information, please call or email Marilyn Carr (406-741-2523) or [momcarr1@yahoo.com](mailto:momcarr1@yahoo.com). To receive corporate rates for lodging, please contact Marilyn before September 14. There will also be registration forms in the Montana Simmental Association newsletter.

## October 27th-28th, Beef Cattle Reproduction Symposium

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New methods and technologies to control and improve reproductive success in beef cattle are the focus of the Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle October 27 and 28, 2005 at the El Dorado Casino Hotel in Reno, Nevada.

The symposium is designed to improve the understanding of the physiological processes of the estrous cycle, currently available procedures to synchronize estrus and ovulation and the proper application of these systems, and to improve the understanding of methods to assess bull fertility and how it affects the success of AI programs. The program features nationally recognized speakers from several universities and the beef industry.

Symposium features:

- Estrous synchronization systems and costs
- Improving conception rates
- Measuring breeding soundness
- Markers of semen quality
- Management strategies to improve reproduction
- Nutrition and reproduction interactions
- Early pregnancy diagnosis
- Panel discussions
- Industry displays and booths
- Continuing education credits available

### Lodging & Meeting Information:

El Dorado Casino Hotel

Reno, Nevada

(800) 648-5966

Specify **Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle** and group code **SUR1026** when reserving rooms.

More information about Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle including schedule, registration and lodging information, is available on the internet at <http://westcentral.unl.edu/beefrepro/> or by contacting Ron Torell, area livestock specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension at (775) 738-1721 or [torellr@unce.unr.edu](mailto:torellr@unce.unr.edu).

Registration for both days, which includes lunch and proceedings, is \$200. Registration discounts will be given to participants staying at the El Dorado Casino Hotel. Registrations with checks payable to the University of Nevada-Reno Board of Regents can be sent to Ron Torell at 701 Walnut, Elko, Nevada 89801.

The Western Beef Resource Committee, North Central Region Bovine Reproduction Task Force and the Cooperative Extension Service from multiple states are sponsoring the symposium.



## Controlling Cheatgrass in Pasture and Rangeland

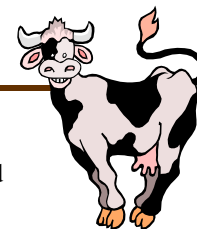
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*Fall is the time for chemical control of cheatgrass on range and pastures.*

Range and pasture stressed from drought and overgrazing can have cheatgrass invade. Each spring the office receives calls about controlling cheatgrass on pastures. Two products labeled for cheatgrass control on range and pastures are Plateau herbicide by BASF and Outrider herbicide by Monsanto. Landowners will want to read the labels and make sure these controls will work on their land. You do need good grass species in the cheatgrass affected areas in order to benefit from control measures. Seeding after chemical application can be an option. Remember cheatgrass will invade range and pasture stressed from drought and/or overgrazing, so before going to the expense of using these products, make sure you examine your grazing practices. Both products require uniform and accurate application rates. Make sure your equipment is calibrated or hire a professional applicator.

To download the above mentioned herbicide labels go to [www.gallatinextension.com](http://www.gallatinextension.com).

# Dairy Buyout Program (CWT)



The stronger and more stable milk prices that the industry has enjoyed since CWT's (Cooperatives Working Together) launch in the summer of 2003 have encouraged many farmers to increase their milk production. After reviewing rising cow numbers as well as the comments of farmers across the nation, the CWT committee, comprised of member representatives, has determined that another herd retirement round should be undertaken under the following timeline targets.

## **TIMELINE TARGETS**

### DATE

August 10, 2005

September 16, 2005

September 19 - September 23, 2005

September 26 - September 30, 2005

October 5, 2005

October 10, 2005

October 27, 2005

October 10, 2005 - January 30, 2006

### HERD RETIREMENT PROGRAM

- Announce bid process
- Distribute bid forms for all CWT Participants
- Deadline for submitting bids
- Bid analysis by independent audit firm
- Bids reviewed by CWT Staff
- Final bid selection by CWT Staff
- Notification of successful bidders to field auditors
- Field Audits begin
- Notification (by letter) to successful bidders
- Notification (by letter) to unsuccessful bidders
- Field Audit/Herd removal period

## **Interested in Bidding? Here's what you need to do.**

CWT producer members interested in participating in the 2005 Herd Retirement must submit completed bid forms by September 16, 2005. Bids post-marked after September 16th will not be considered.

- The CWT Bid Calculator can be accessed at <http://www.cwt.coop/calculator/index.html>.
- The Herd Retirement 2005 Bid Form can be downloaded at <http://www.cwt.coop/action/2005BidForm.pdf>. If you do not have internet access, please call the Gallatin Extension office 582-3280 for a bid form.

Bids must be accompanied by a milk company printout of monthly milk marketings during the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. Producers with an interest in more than one farm must submit milk marketings for each farm.

Producers who were selected in a previous CWT Herd Retirement Program are not eligible to bid in this program. In addition, no cows may have been sold or transferred after June 15, 2005 (except cows sold for slaughter).

All bids must be sent by U.S. mail to:

**CWT  
Herd Retirement Program  
P.O. Box 41049  
Bethesda, MD 20824-1049**

## **If your bid is selected, you can expect the following:**

CWT will send a farm auditor to your farm. The auditor will reconcile the cow numbers, compare the current milk volume (at the time of the farm audit) to the twelve (12) month history of milk marketings and provide CWT tamper-evident ear tags to be applied to every cow.

Then you will have to arrange to transport all cows to slaughter within 15 days after completion of the farm audit. Promptly after the sale of all your cows, you must provide CWT with documents verifying the sale, but you retain all the proceeds from the sale of your cows.

After CWT receives documentation of the sale of your cows, payment shall be made based upon your bid price multiplied by your verified milk volume for the period of July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. You choose how you get your CWT payment – as a lump sum upon sale of all cows; in two installments with 50% upon sale of cows and the remainder paid after January 1, 2006; or as a single payment delayed until after January 1, 2006.

Still have questions? Contact the CWT staff by calling 888-Info-CWT (888-463-6298) or visit [www.cwt.coop](http://www.cwt.coop).

## 2006 Gallatin County Master Gardener

We are gearing up for another great Master Gardener course! The class is scheduled for January 25—April 5, 2006, 6:00-8:00 pm Wednesday evenings. The class will be held in Leon Johnson Hall on the MSU-Bozeman campus. Cost will be \$85 per person which includes text and training materials.

Montana's urban and suburban population is rapidly increasing. Our temperature extremes, scarcity of water in some areas, and challenging soils combine to give us one of the harshest growing climates in the world. Civic groups and home gardeners are thirsty for information. Our Extension receives a thousand inquiries each year! Master Gardeners provide a valuable service to the community by applying their new skills to abate this demand for information.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Kara at the Gallatin Extension office (582-3280) or email [gallatin2@montana.edu](mailto:gallatin2@montana.edu).

To request disability accommodation or to inform us of special needs, please contact the Extension office at (582-3280), email [gallatin2@montana.edu](mailto:gallatin2@montana.edu), or write Gallatin County Extension, 901 N. Black Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715.

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**MONTANA** Gallatin County Extension  
**STATE** 901 N. Black Ave.  
**UNIVERSITY** Bozeman, MT 59715

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**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.gallatinextension.com](http://www.gallatinextension.com)**